the Public Utility Commission over routes was withdrawn. This led to free competition, acceleration of service, and the entry of new ships into the field. The commerce of the Islands has steadily increased from about f 68,000,000 in 1899 to over P350>ooo,ooo in 1934. Goods amounting to such a sum must be moved expeditiously.

An important factor in the development of this commerce has been the steady improvement of ports. Beginning with the construction of sea-walls and small wooden docks in Manila, Iloilo and Cebu, a program of portworks has received generous support from the government. The result has been that all the important seaports from Aparri to Sulu have been improved, with Manila the outstanding example of what can be done in this line.

Between 1916 and 1926 there were many losses due to shipwrecks, etc. An annual inspection by the Bureau of Customs was instituted, improving the seaworthiness of the ships. The development of the interisland shipping to its present level of efficiency is a notable and vital achievement for a people largely dependent upon the sea for their channels of trade.

The most populous sections of the Philippines, Central Luzon and Cebu, have been given the advantage of efficient railroad facilities for a number of years, and commercial automobile traffic has closely followed the improvement in highways,

AVIATION MAKES AUSPICIOUS START

Very recently the first chapters of Philippine aviation history have been written. Private enterprise has pioneered and has demonstrated the practicability of air communication. A country of more than 7,000 islands offers a great field for this most modern development in transportation, and the past several years have shown results which hold great promise for the future.

Thousands of miles have been flown commercially, on regular schedules, north to Baguio, and south to Iloilo and Cebu, and only the other day regular service was extended to Davao in Mindanao.

At present there are some forty landing fields throughout the Islands, twenty of which have been constructed by the Philippine Gov-

ernment. This work is progressing as rapidly as possible, so that within a year every town of the Philippines will be within a day's trip from Manila. Great credit is due to the Air Corps of the United States Army and in particular to the enthusiastic interest and support of Major General Frank Parker for the recent acquisition and con-